

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A method of detecting in a sample the presence or absence of breast cancer ~~or colorectal cancer~~ cells having an increased copy number of nucleic acid sequences at chromosome region 20q13.2, the method comprising:

contacting a nucleic acid sample from breast tissue cells of a human patient with a probe which specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions to a target polynucleotide sequence consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof, wherein said stringent conditions include washing with 0.2x SSC at 65°C for 15 minutes, wherein the probe is contacted with the sample under conditions in which the probe hybridizes selectively with the target polynucleotide sequence to form a stable hybridization complex; and

detecting the formation of a hybridization complex to determine a copy number of a nucleic acid in chromosomal region 20q13.2, where an increased copy number of nucleic acid sequences at chromosomal region 20q13.2 indicates the presence of a breast cancer cell that is likely to progress to a more malignant phenotype thereby identifying the presence or absence of colorectal cancer or breast cancer cells having an increased copy number of nucleic acid sequences at chromosomal region 20q13.2.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sample is from a patient with breast cancer.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a metaphase spread or an interphase nucleus.

Claims 29-36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the probe comprises a polynucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9.

Claims 38-60 (Canceled).

Claim 61 (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the probe is labeled.

Claim 62 (Previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein the label is a fluorescent label.

Claim 63 (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a chromosome